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Hon. John B. Winslow, Associate Justice, Wisconsin Supreme Court,
1891-1907; Chief Justice, 1907-1920.

(From letter to Congressman John M. Nelson, endorsing his bill for
the establishment of a Legislative Reference and Bill Drafting
Bureau in connection with the Library of Congress, January 13,
1912.)

"I can confidently say that the Wisconsin Legislative
Reference Library has been of very material assistance to the leg-
islative branch of the government in the careful drafting of bills
and in placing within reach of the legislators the results of leg-
islation in other countries, as well as the literature bearing
thereon."

Hon. Walter G. Owen, State Senator, 1907-1913; Attorney General
1913-1917; Justice of Wisconsin Supreme Court, 1917-1934.

(From a private letter, January 25, 1924.)

"My public experience in this state includes six years in
Senate, five years as Attorney-General, and six years as a mem-
ber of the Supreme Court. This service has brought me into intimate
contact with the Legislative Reference Library of this State. I
cannot over-emphasize its usefulness to the legislative branch of
government. Through its agency, the experience of the world upon
any legislative subject is quickly placed at the legislator's dis-
posal. This contributes, as is at once apparent, to intelligent
and perfected legislation. Then, too, the bill drafting department
of the library, where the bills are prepared by men of legal learn-
ing and skill, promotes clear and understandable legislation harmo-
nizing with existing laws, and minimizes ambiguous and contradictory
statutory provisions.

"This sort of legislative assistance is a comparatively new
idea, but the experience of Wisconsin leaves no doubt of its value.
The abolition of our Legislative Reference Library would not for a
moment be thought of or tolerated."

Hon. Robert M. LaFollette, Governor of Wisconsin, 1901-1905, U. S.
Senator, 1906-1925.

Testimony before the Senate Committee on the Library in the hearing
on bills for a "Legislative Drafting Bureau and Reference Division",
February 4, 1923. (In Senate Document No. 1271, 62d Congress, 3d
Session, page 3.)

"Wisconsin was the first State to establish a legislative reference bureau.

"In 1901--I was at that time governor of the State--we made the beginning of that which has now grown to be an important institution in Wisconsin. We felt at the outset the necessity of investigation before legislating along many new lines which had been projected as a part of our legislative program, and to that end we established a legislative reference library.

"Dr. Charles McCarthy was put at the head of the library and while it started in a modest way and with a very small appropriation it built up very rapidly in favor and in efficiency until at the present time it has become quite indispensable."

(Statement in speech January 8, 1916, as reported in the Wisconsin State Journal, January 9, 1916.)

Philipp started out to abolish the legislative reference library, but he failed because some things are too good to be abolished, especially when those things gather current information from every country on earth so the members of the Wisconsin legislature can act intelligently. The legislative library was largely instrumental in securing for Wisconsin in the last ten years, the best body of laws to be found anywhere in the country today."

Rt. Hon. James Bryce, late member British Cabinet; Minister of Great Britain to the United States; author American Commonwealth, Modern Democracies, etc.

(Testimony in hearing before the Committee on the Library, U. S. House of Representatives on Bill H.R. 18720 for a Congressional Reference Bureau, February 26, 1912.)

"As observed by Mr. Nelson, such a bureau as is now contemplated has been established in several states. I had opportunity some years ago of observing its workings in Wisconsin, and the testimony of persons whom I saw in Wisconsin appeared to be unanimously favorable."

Charles R. Van Hise, President, University of Wisconsin, 1903-1920.

(Letter endorsing the proposal to establish a Federal Legislative Reference and Bill Drafting Bureau, published in Senate Report No. 1271, 62d Congress, 3d Session.)

"All who know the situation in Wisconsin before we had a legislative reference library and since that time appreciate the superiority of the present condition. While the ideas of members are strictly carried out, the bills are framed in such form that they are not likely to be overturned by the courts because of lack of consideration of other laws and decisions."

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Hon. Emil Baensch, Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin.

(From address to the Wisconsin Senate, June 15, 1917.)

"The reference library was one of the greatest improvements that the legislature has experienced. It is not only convenient but it is helpful."

Hon. James J. Frear, Assemblyman 1903-1905; State Senator 1905-1907; Secretary of State 1907-1913; Member of Congress 1913-1935.)

(From speech in U. S. House of Representatives, January 11, 1921, urging a larger appropriation for the Federal Legislative Reference Bureau.)

"We have an able bureau there (in Wisconsin), well equipped and invaluable to the State."

Hon. Henry A. Huber, Assemblyman 1905-1909; State Senator 1913-1925; Lieutenant Governor 1925-1933.

(Quoted in LaFollette's Magazine, March 1925.)

"During my legislative experience, covering a period of some 14 years, I have found the legislative reference library of Wisconsin of inestimable value. Had Dr. Charles McCarthy done nothing else during his long and eventful career, this alone would give him an important place in the history of Wisconsin."

Milwaukee Sentinel.

(Editorial February 25, 1922.)

"The legislative reference library is most helpful as a source of information, and a place where legislators can go to have bills drawn. In this respect it has been of marked value, not only to senators and assemblymen, but to governors. For example, the administration can turn to the library for data dealing with some new form of legislation which has been tried in other states and may seem applicable here. If the subject matter is entirely new in this country it may have been tried out in Europe--the library is in a position to furnish information covering this point.

"Detailed work of drawing a bill is no simple matter. It is particularly complex and difficult when the measure deals with existing statutes and sections thereof, sometimes repealing much that is old and creating much that is new. It is no reflection upon the intelligence of the average lawmaker to say he needs assistance in this direction. The reference library serves a very useful purpose when it gives this assistance."

Milwaukee Journal.

(Editorial July 26, 1915.)

"There is no need to establish once more the usefulness and value of the legislative reference library. Its work has won the repeated commendation of eminent legal authority and the approval of the courts for the way in which it has improved the statutes of the state, clarifying the language and guarding them against unintended provisions. The work of this department has won testimonials from such well known conservative leaders as ex-President Taft and ex-Senator Root, who have urged a similar library and bill drafting bureau for the national congress.

"It needs to be understood clearly that the attack on the reference library is an attack on information. Men and interests with axes to grind, measures of their own to put through find it inconvenient and troublesome to have an efficient department ready to throw light on subjects of legislative consideration. The reference library makes rough sledding for jokers and for measures intended to accomplish more than is indicated on their face. The reference library sheds light and light is a very unhealthful thing for certain kinds of legislative measures."

Chicago Tribune.

(Editorial May 7, 1915.)

"One of the very good and valuable of Wisconsin's new ideas is the legislative reference bureau--an institution that renders first, second and final aid to the lawmakers of the state.

"The bureau has been warmly commended by statesmen of national reputation and of conservative or moderate tendencies. Ex-Senator Root is one of these. The bureau has been denounced as a "bill factory" on the theory that inexperienced and unskilled legislators are emboldened to offer all manner of measures because the bureau helps them to put their notions into shape and to escape ridicule. But even if this be true, the bureau, on the other hand, is a preventive of trickery and chicanery. It is rough on jokers and calculated ambiguities. It fixes responsibility at every stage of a measure, from first draft to final amendment. If anyone attempts to put something over, the record shows him up without mercy.

"Another service of the bureau is found in the information it promptly supplies to legislators and the executive. Information about the acts of other states, about official reports, about standard books, principles, accepted doctrines, experiments, and novelties in social and economic practice--all this is furnished without delay upon the request of anyone interested in a piece of proposed legislation. Many of the most conservative members of the Wisconsin legislature, former critics of the bureau, declare frankly that they would hardly know how to get along without it."